ing/availability would not get affected by the new patent regime. Therapeutic equivalents of the patented medicines are also available generally. Coupled with the pressure from prices of different drugs in the same therapeutic group, the paying capacity of Indian consumer is also expected to keep a check on the prices of patented medicines The new patent regime introduced through the Patents (Amendment) Ordinance, 2004, *inter-alia,* for the pharmaceutical sector in the context of globalization of Indian economy is expected to provide an impetus to growth in research and development and enhancement in the capability of the Indian system to generate and protect the intellectual property.

Problems faced by seafood exporters

164. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our seafood exporters are facing certain problems as a result of imposition of anti-dumping duty by the US;

(b) if so, the problems in brief faced by our seafood exporters; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to address their problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) As a result of the final anti-dumping margin announced by the United States Government in January, 2005 duty on shrimp import from India, our exporters have to pay the duty margin as follows:

M/s. Devi Sea Foods Ltd.	4.94%
M/s. Nekkanti Seafoods Ltd.	9.71%
M/s. Hindustan Lever Ltd.	15.36%
All Others Rate	10.17%

(c) The Marine Products Export Development Authority and the Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI) has been defending the interests of the Indian shrimp industy.